



Final Report

**TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

ECO CHAMBER of COMMERCE and INDUSTRY

Oct8, 2013  
Tehran- I.R Iran



**Final Report of the  
Transportation Committee Meeting  
ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO CCI)  
*Oct 8, 2013, Tehran- I.R Iran***

1. The Fifth meeting of the Transportation Committee of ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted by Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) was held on Oct 8, 2013 in Tehran-I.R Iran. The representatives of the Transportation Committee from Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Turkey, Islamic Republic of Iran, , as well as delegates from the ECO Secretariat participated in the meeting (list of participants :Annex I).

**Agenda Item No – 1: Inauguration of the Meeting**

2. Mr Yasin Ekmen of the TOBB on behalf of the Chairman of the Transportation Committee delivered his welcome address.

**Agenda Item No – 2: Adoption of the Agenda**

3. The draft agenda of the meeting already circulated to Member States and given below was adopted by the Meeting.

- 1- Inauguration of the Meeting
- 2- Adoption of the Agenda
- 3- Appointment of the Drafting Committee
- 4- Statement by the Chairman of Transportation Committee
- 5- Activity Report by Secretary General, ECO CCI
- 6- Remarks by heads of delegations
- 7- Presentation by the ECO Secretariat on the latest achievement on TTFA
- 8- Briefing outcome of the recent RPC Meeting regarding contracting companies from Iran-Turkey and Pakistan to ECO Train
- 9- Points on necessity and ways and means of issuance of deferred quick visa to transit drivers and merchants of Member States valid in all Member States and harmonization of the working hours of customs offices by delegations and ECO Secretariat.
- 10- Any Other Business
- 11- Date and Venue of the next Meeting
- 12- Adoption of the Report
- 13- Vote of Thanks

**Agenda Item No – 3: Appointment of the Drafting Committee**

4. An Open Ended Drafting Committee consisting of representatives of the Member Chambers was formed to prepare the Draft Report of the Meeting.

#### **Agenda Item No – 4: Statement by the Chairman of Transportation Committee**

5. Mr Yasin Ekmen from TOBB on behalf of the Chairman of the Transportation Committee delivered his statement in which he underlined the significance of the transportation for the intra ECO trade and called for new concrete projects in the region and completion of transportation projects as well as revitalization of the Silk Road (Annex II) .

#### **Agenda Item No – 5: Activity Report by Secretary General, ECO CCI**

6. Secretary General, ECO CCI delivered the activity report of the ECO CCI since the last meeting of the Transportation Committee in Nov 2012 in Ankara, Turkey (Annex III).

#### **Agenda Item No -6: Remarks by heads of delegations**

7. Heads of delegations from Member Chambers made their remarks.

- Pakistan delegate stated some points on Pakistan’s accession to the TIR, workshop on TIR Convention and ITI (ECO) Train and called for activation of this train as well as expanding the volume of intra ECO trade in order to make the ITI Train project more feasible .
- TOBB delegate pointed out that Afghanistan has already accessed to TIR and TOBB as well as some other local chambers in Turkey have formed a transportation company (BALO) who has signed agreements with some European companies for trans Eurasia transportation facilitation. The delegate called for removal of problems at borders (such as Zahedan-Taftan) and cargo procurement and the infrastructure problems which prolongs the ITI running time to 30-40 days.
- Iran delegate confirmed problems enumerated by TOBB and underlined the importance of marketing. Iran MFA delegate said that the main problem lies in Taftan-Quetta region which has been discussed in 8 HLWG meetings on ITI Train the last of which was in June 2012 in Ankara but the Pakistani Government has not fulfilled the task of rebuilding of the Taftan-Quetta block.
- BALO Co was introduced as the Turkish contracting company for the ITI Train.
- ECO CCI Secretary General explained that both Road and Rail Corridors of the ITI would be marketed by the contracting companies of the three countries of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey where a joint venture would be established by these companies representing their respective countries.
- TOBB confirmed considering the establishment of the joint venture company
- The session was informed that Afghanistan has officially joined the TIR Convention last month

#### **Agenda Item No-7: Presentation by the ECO Secretariat on the latest achievement on TTFA**

8. ECO Secretariat made a presentation on the latest achievement on TTFA (Annex IV).

- Under this item TOBB informed the session that it will host a One Week Training Program on TIR Convention for Pakistan Transport Operators in Ankara as previously conducted for Afghan operators.

**Agenda Item No-8: Briefing outcome of the recent RPC Meeting regarding contracting companies from Iran-Turkey and Pakistan to ECO Train**

9. This item was already covered under the Agenda Item No -6.

- ECO CCI Secretary General said that we have to know the latest status of harmonization of working hours of the region's customs and asked the ECO Secretariat to clarify the matter.
- The ECO Secretariat responded that currently it is not possible to determine a timetable to harmonize the working hours due to differences in sophistication of customs of the region as the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) may be approached to deal with the problem in financial terms.

**Agenda Item No-9: Points on necessity and ways and means of issuance of deferred quick visa to transit drivers and merchants of Member States valid in all Member States and harmonization of the working hours of customs offices by delegations and ECO Secretariat.**

10. The meeting heard Points on necessity and ways and means of issuance of deferred quick visa to transit drivers and merchants of Member States valid in all Member States and as harmonization of the working hours of customs offices was discussed in the earlier two agenda items .

- The I.R Iran MFA delegate informed the session of the imminence of the KTAI Corridor Meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in a few days and requested the member states to make their nominations.
- ECO CCI Secretariat informed the session of the follow up it has made to absorb nominees including those of Turkey and Iran to the KTAI Corridor Meeting in Bishkek.

**Agenda Item No 10: Any Other Business**

11. No other issues were raised under this item.

**Agenda Item No-11: Date and Venue of the next Meeting**

12. The meeting left the proposals on date and venue of the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Transportation Committee to the Executive Committee of ECO CCI.

**Agenda Item No – 12: Adoption of the Report**

13. The Meeting unanimously adopted the Draft Report of the fifth Transportation Committee Meeting of ECO CCI.

**Agenda Item No – 13: Vote of Thanks**

14. The participating members offered their thanks to Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) for the excellent arrangements made to hold this important meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to the participants during their stay in Tehran. The participants also appreciated the contribution of the ECO Secretariat for providing the necessary assistance and support.